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THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 14, 1851.

For the National Era.
LIFE ON PRAIRIE DE LA FLEUR.—No. 10.

BY MARY IRVING.

THE NOBLEMAN'S CHILDREN.

"The rank is but the guinea's stamp;
The man's the gold for a' that."—BURNS.

I wonder whether every American child who has read an "Old World" story book has not felt a fancy to sketch an earl, viscount, or some pattern of nobility? Thanks to the Puritan Fathers, there are no noblemen but Nature's, of the wide Atlantic; and she, in her womanly dignity, has shown herself somewhat more fastidious than the knight-dubbing kings and queens of the days of chivalry. So the child's curiosity is thrown back on itself for materials and colors to fashion his picture; and imagination frames and glides it grandly by his mind-gallery. It is the recollection of this childish picture that makes the grown-up child so eager often to touch the hem of a titled foreigner's garment, and which has given European sometimes reason to laugh, out of their sleeves, at our republicanism run wild.

But you are waiting for a veritable sketch, to compare with your various idealities, and I will hasten to give it you. If it disappoints you, find fault with the pencil or the original, just as it may please you.

In the cabin of a lonely vessel ploughing the sea-green waves that wash Long Island's southern shore, lounged a half-sick girl, enveloped in a tumbled wrapping-gown. She was listless, staring the dog-eared pages of a ship-worn novel, leaning languidly upon one elbow, when the bit of a door was thrown open, and a little damsel, as rosy as Aurora herself, jumped down the steps at a bound.

"Oh, Sabra," she cried out, in a pretty half Scotch brogue, "it's nigh to America ere we, and you biding between decks yet! Up wi' you, and spy at Sandy Hook!"

"Dinna bother me, Jennie! I'm a'thing Sandy Hook to me, or America either, for a'that!" replied the other, in languid reticence.
"Mac bid me fetch you to the fore deck," persisted the rosy little Jennie. "The brooms will carry your head-ail, and he hides waiting. Dinna tarry!"

"I care na one she-shell for the New World, nor aught that's in it!" returned the sister, more vehemently. "My ain bonnie Scotland! I shall ne'er step on its heather mat!" She turned her face from the ship's side, and hid it from her sister.

"Ye mauna greet, Sabra!" coaxed the other, putting her arm around her. "Mip'd ye be a'tad Timothy's tales and sayings? He bade us be cheerful, ye ken, for it was a happy life we had hame to live on the big prairie!"

"Jennie!" called her brother's voice, impatiently, from above.
"I maun have you," said she, starting up. "If you need but fond you in the plaid, and tak' one peep at the bonny sunset!"

But Sabra's perverseness was unconquerable, and Jennie left her to sigh and make moan over her own miseries, while she flew up, light as a roe, to toss her arms in the fresh land breeze, and dance with delight at the thought of treading green grass again, and gathering flowers, though it were on a stranger shore.

McDonald, Sabra, and Jennie Spencer, were the children of a Scottish laird of high family, but decayed fortunes. Orphaned in early life, they were reared and educated by aristocratic and wealthy relatives, who taught them from childhood this first great lesson—that the blood that flowed along their veins had welled up from a spring of pride and honor, far back in antiquity.

The two elder were not slow in learning this lesson, but little Jennie was sadly plagued by some perversely plebeian tastes. She never could be made to feel that she was a "born lady," and must stately, or ride, in stately indifference, or, at least, walk or coo, to her inferiors. Indeed, the child could not be convinced that she had any inferiors among those who spoke kindly to her. She loved her nurse as well as she did her prim old aunt, and a great deal better; and she was never backward in showing her wayward preferences. Many was the lecture on her station in society, and many the punishment that the poor child was forced to receive for wilfully forgetting it. She loved nothing better than, when her aunt or governess's terrible eye was turned to slip down into the kitchen with the maids, hear their songs and stories, eat their buns and butter-cakes, and, worse than all, actually to take lessons in the unlady-like arts of scrubbing and cooking.

If a slow, measured step was heard approaching, Jennie's sport was at an end. She must either run to hide under the great floured apron of the cook, or dodge through back doors and by-ways back into the parlor of the mansion.

If she failed, she could calculate how many hours she should be doomed to sit on a high stool, with dangling feet, embroidering a pair of white damask gloves in the corner of her sampler, under the devious eye of her aunt. Poor Jennie used to sit, at such times, biting her thread, or putting her red lips, and with that she had been born a maid-servant, or a robin, or a lamb; or even a speckled trout, for that had the whole brook to founder in anything but a Spencer or the Spencers, to sit on an ottoman and work worsted—and turn out her toes when she walked—and behave like a "proper young lady!" Oh! she would make herself very miserable about her destiny for half an hour, and then would forget that she ever had any miseries.

Sabra looked down quite disdainfully upon her good-humored little sister; first, because her plump shoulders were a little higher than the exact curve of aristocracy; secondly, because her hands were large enough to be useful, and undisciplined enough to be perpetually trying to be so; and lastly, because she was a "fine lady," by nature, and a "moulted bird," by education. She had a small, but not a little, of the ignorance of all such plebeian matters as pertain to the comforts of life. Her little white hand was made to wave, not to work; and in truth, it seemed much sorer for the former than the latter purpose.

When McDonald had lately finished his university studies, various changes in family affairs changed the aspect of his own and his sister's destinies. As the young people were fortuneless, and could consequently make no figure, sustain no standing, in their own proud country, it was resolved to send them fortune-seeking to America.

Jennie jumped half the hall at the very first proposition of the matter, and sat very quietly

at her work for several hours after quite unconscious of any harshness, trying to labor down the smiles that would dance in dimples all over her face. McDonald assented passively, as to a point of necessity. Sabra went herself almost into hysterics about herself into her innermost chamber, and refused to be comforted. When she was convinced that it must be, she sullenly and gloomily acquiesced, with rebellious heart-repining that would not be quelled. Several of the steaming yemeny of their native burgh had emigrated to Prairie de la Fleur, and won lands and wealth there, as well as reputation and influence. Guided by these circumstances, the guardians of the Spencers purchased for them, by proxy, a farm of richly-promising acres on the prairie, and turned them adrift on the Atlantic and on their own resources.

"You're the big prairie, my lassie!" exclaimed the Scotch friend who had met them at the Lake landing, and piloted them in his huge box wagon, through a sea of mud-waves and "dunes," for it was in the time of early spring.

"Oh! but the thickies are blue and bonny!" cried Jennie, jumping up from her board-seat in delight. "I've heard, Mac!" warned the driver, as a grand lurch of the vehicle nearly tumbled her into the black pool below. "Ye're safest to keep steady; and the thickies are blue and bonny!"

Sabra, muffled closely in her plaid, hood, and veil, was nursing her silent vexation at Jennie's antics, and the driver would think it well to tell her of the "thickies" of the "dunes."

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They remained with their friends several months, until a comfortable little house had been prepared for them on the prairie. It was a little white cottage—not with two rooms either, the very highest number to which most of the prairie cottages were limited. No; the "Spencer's Cottage" actually numbered five rooms, finished and furnished; and after it had been painted within and without, it was the sweetest nestling.

The neighbors and friends from all about came to congratulate the trio on their installation as masters and mistresses of the snug new domicile. Sabra's education had left her both indolent and ignorant of housekeeping duties. She was well-disposed enough; but, poor child, she had never learned how to use her own powers.

"We must mak' up a baking of bread, it seems," remarked Sabra, listlessly, one morning, as she sat at a slice from the little white loaf Mrs. K. had sent her.

"Ken ye the hoo to mak' it, Sabra?" suggested Jennie, looking anxiously upon her bit of battered toast.

"Oh, I'll do the flour and the yeast and the milk to mix, that's all. I've four cakes o' corn yeast frae Dame K."

"The mixture" was compounded after a due degree of deliberation, and the three little buns, which were as round as the moon, and as white as snow, were baked to perfection.

"Mac was as ready to oblige as a brother could be, and the oven was as hot as blazes, and roaring in suitable style. The dough was kneaded very patiently and well by Jennie's strong arms; and the bread was baked to perfection by her own hands. The bread was as white as snow, and as round as the moon, and as hot as blazes, and roaring in suitable style.

"Oh! we've me!" she cried, with such uncommon energy as to startle her brother from his newspaper, and Sabra from her embroidery. Both of them started up, and looked at the three little buns, which were as round as the moon, and as white as snow, and as hot as blazes, and roaring in suitable style.

"It's only the flour to be cut off wi' a sharp knife, and it's likely bread beneath!" the knife was brought, and, having pierced the bread with a fork, the three little buns were taken out, and the bread was as white as snow, and as round as the moon, and as hot as blazes, and roaring in suitable style.

"An' what's to do?" ejaculated the dismayed Jennie, after they had looked and lamented for some minutes.

"Why, Mac's to gang over to borrow of Dame K."

"But hoo to pay! Mac, nae; I'll gang myself, and I'll tak' her counsel o' the baking!"

"An' this resolution Jennie set off on a two miles' walk."

But their household disasters and tribulations were by no means at an end. Every letter that came from the C. C. farming, as well as of housekeeping, was to be learned.

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head, or a dimpled cheek, for Sabra was not a heartless or ungenerous girl, where her sympathies had been taught to flow.

But as the months passed on, they brought a change over Jennie's life and aims. She, who had been the most buoyant of all the buoyant-hearted, the careless, warbling lark of the prairie, became at once serious, silent, and sad. Sabra called her, and ceased her, vainly, to find out the secret. But Jennie only looked heavily down in silence, or brushed away the gathering tears.

Sabra grew angry at last.

"Ye're making a life o' hypocrisy o' yerel!" she exclaimed, one evening, when Jennie had returned from a weekly "conference meeting," which she had as usual insisted on attending, though she must go and return alone. "Ye mean to win the favor of the minister and the manse folk, and ye're no the bit better for a'that!"

"Sister, I'm nae the prairie me!" answered Sabra, dropping her head into her sister's lap. "I'm neither the prairie me, nor the manse me, nor the minister's me. I'm the same old Sabra, but I'm a'thing different."

"Oh, I have been bad, but to you in times lang syne! forgive me, my ain sister!"

"Ye've—bad!" she said, with a look of scorn. "What's come to you?"

"I've come to me that I've been a sinner's creature, Sabra, a sinner's life; and I maun to turn to the right!"

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most abundant in such offerings are also the first in scholarship, and especially distinguished by self-respect and orderly deportment. Hundreds of the pupils, by this honorable distinction, have also been sought for to fill places alike respectable, profitable, and useful.

FOR THE NATIONAL ERA.

THE WORKINGMEN OF AMERICA.

BY GEORGE W. PUTNAM.

"The land shall not be sold for ever!"—Moses.
"There is no foundation in nature or in natural law, why a set of words upon parchment should convey the dominion of the land to man."—BACON.

Ye telling millions of the land,
Whose poverty is guilt,
Who grudge with the prison house
False Legislation built—
Whose full strength from the early dawn
To ye, ye hear, ye hear, ye hear,
Ye not that your kindred
Are the angel thence of heaven.

Early doings to let those utmost stretch
Scarcely brings the scanty bread,
Plagues and pestilence, and wars,
And your better bread made.
Though bread and milk, the light of truth
We may not reach your kindred eye,
We may not reach your kindred eye,
Though Christ be passing by.

Ye by foul Mammon's worshippers
Are turned from your high goal—
True strength of body and necessity
Shall ye not, ye hear, ye hear, ye hear,
With due to the right upon your brow,
Humbled, crouching like the slave
Through this world's dim-lighted labyrinth,
Ye grope on to the grave.

That a few may ride in splendor,
Shall ye not, ye hear, ye hear, ye hear,
Be in linen and in purple clothed,
And 'fare ye well' every day,
Ye hear your kindred eye,
Ye hear your kindred eye,
Ye hear your kindred eye,
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The green fields and the water brooks
He made and gave to you—
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FOR THE NATIONAL ERA.

POLITICS AND POLICY.

The necessity of a more perfect union among the friends of Freedom is acknowledged on all hands. The differences of opinion which have arisen on the questions of "when" and "how" can, I think, be reconciled by some considerations which I have not yet seen presented.

There are two perils between which we have to steer. The one is the embrace of the politicians. They are our natural enemies; for more dangerous when cajoling us with creases than when barking in our faces. They are the offspring of a time when political principles, in the sense in which we understand the term, were not subjects of public dispute; when politics meant nothing more than an exciting way of making a living, a species of legitimate gambling without end. They detect the new order of things, in which men are hurled from their pedestals, and ideas erected in their stead; it is a new-dangled method of slinging the carabineer, which they cannot learn. They see—and it is time that we should—that we are not children of the same spirit with them. To give them a share in the management of our country would be to officer our forces from the paid troops of the enemy. Have we been worse betrayed by Webster or Cass than we have by John Van Buren?

What is it that really upholds slavery? The people? Nobody dreams it. The slaveholders? They are a drop in the ocean. Solely and alone the politicians; we to us if we take them to our bosoms.

We may, as an organization, ally ourselves for any one particular contest with one or other of the ruling factions. But to merge into them as individuals, and thus surrender ourselves to the guidance of their leaders, would be nothing more nor less than to lead ourselves to the overthrow of the principles we fight for. But I go further, and say, even to imitate the old politicians, by forming a party organized as they are, and working as they do, would be to perpetuate their actions and respect their morals in a manner which could only benefit them, our bitterest foes, and injure us, whose vital object is their overthrow. The adoption of a party is self-sacrifice; and this will hold together a much looser organization than will be needed by an association that means to conquer by principle and self-sacrifice.

A party, in the sense in which we use the word, is a machine for making a President; but we do not desire a President—we desire legislation. Our organization must not even wear the name of a party; it must be a union of men, not of a machine for making a President; but we do not desire a President—we desire legislation.

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FOR THE NATIONAL ERA.

INVOCATION.

BY MISS PHOEBE CARRY.

Hear me, O Death, and softly come
From thy dark throne of endless shame;
Even of the spirit of the tomb,<

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 17, 1851.

A WORD OR TWO TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Probably it costs the *National Era* more than any other American newspaper to provide for its literary miscellany. That department of the paper, it will be observed, is supplied generally with original matter, which, in respect to literary merit and moral tone, is at least equal to the contributions in our best magazines.

Seldom has a series of papers been published which has attracted more attention, or been so widely reviewed, as the sketches from the pen of MARY LIVING, now in progress of publication in our columns.

Alternating with these, we intend to publish another series by "Patty Lee," a name de plume for one of the most accomplished of our female writers.

We have on hand a story by MARTHA RUSSELL, ever welcome to our readers, which will run through six or eight numbers of the *Era*; and Mrs. H. B. Stone, whose writings are so well known and appreciated that we need say no more about them, is engaged in preparing another story for us, of similar length. Mrs. SOUTHWORTH will appear once more in the *Era*, during the year, and Dr. WILLIAM ELDER, our much-valued contributor, we must not omit to mention the postscripters, ALICE and PAMELA GARY.

When, in addition to all this, we refer to our various correspondents, and to the valuable contributions of WHITTIER and GRACE GREENWOOD, employed exclusively for the *Era*, we think we have some claim upon our subscribers, and can suggest no better way for their discharging it than by renewing their own subscriptions regularly whenever they run out, and using a little effort to multiply our readers. We ask this the more confidently because, though the great rise in the price of the paper has been imposed upon us much additional expense, we have not reduced, but actually increased, our outlay for such contributions as we supposed would profit and please our readers.

We cannot forbear publishing the following business letter, which shows how the friends of our paper, or, indeed, any paper, by a little consideration, may promote its interests:

UTICA, MICH., April 8, 1851.

FRIEND BAILEY: Yesterday being town election day, I thought I would make an effort to obtain subscribers for the *Era*, and as I have many of my own, I send you twenty-three names, including my labor, at the club rates, with the money in advance.

My plan is to ask none but honorable men to subscribe; and if they have not the money, I advance it for them, and leave them to pay it after they receive the paper.

If friends of the cause generally would take the same course, your subscription list would soon be doubled, if not trebled.

Your friend, P. D. L.

STATISTICAL FALLACIES.

The *Southern Press* a few days since boasted that the census when published would afford the materials for such comparisons between the North and South as would triumphantly establish the superiority of the institutions of the latter—that is, of the system of slave-labor. In another column the reader may find a specimen of the kind of statistical arguments to be expected from the columns of that press and kindred journals. It is often said that figures will not lie; it is true that they do not lie, "spontaneously"; but they can be compelled to lie most outrageously; and nothing is easier than to impose upon the Public by their help.

To expose the statistical fallacies of the *Pro-Slavery* men, we shall analyze the following calculations of the *Charleston Mercury*:

"There is no boast more commonly or arrogantly made than that of the North over the South, in the matter of population. The superiority of their institutions, they are perpetually saying, is proved by their superior increase. The *Southern Press* some time since replied to one of these boasts, by instituting a comparison between South Carolina and Massachusetts, in which the former showed advantage. We will extend this comparison, and embrace the area of the results of the present census—results far more favorable to New England than those of any preceding census, for a reason that we will point in the sequel.

"Four of the New England States, viz: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, were the original thirteen who framed the Confederacy. The area of the four States is 23,117 square miles, and their aggregate population at the first census of 1790 was 827,867. Their aggregate population by the census of 1850 is 1,831,224. The increase is a little less than 122 per cent. in the sixty years.

"The area of South Carolina is 34,000 square miles, or nearly the aggregate of the four New England States. Her population by the census of 1790 was 246,073. By the census of 1850 it is 608,557, the increase being a little more than 148 per cent. Those who wish to try conclusions as to comparative influence of free and slave institutions on the advancement of population would do well to solve this problem of an increase in South Carolina, during sixty years, amounting to 188 per cent., while the four models of Free-Soilism only show an increase, in the same time, of 122 per cent."

In the first place, these New England States were settled just half a century before South Carolina and its population was three times as dense as that of the latter. New States, from obvious causes, show a far greater ratio of increase than old States. The New England States mentioned were quite densely peopled before the settlement of South Carolina. Every one knows that the three hundred thousand population in Wisconsin will increase in a higher ratio than the nine hundred thousand in Indiana; and other things being equal, it was inevitable that the ratio of increase for a population of two hundred and forty-six thousand in South Carolina should be higher than for a population of eight hundred and twenty-seven thousand in the other States named.

But, we shall not rest the argument here. An analysis of the several censuses from 1790 to 1850 will show, first, that the higher ratio of increase of the *Mercury* boasts, is owing to the augmentation of the slave population; that the free people of South Carolina have increased more slowly than the free people of the New England States; and that the increase, which raised, during the beginning of the period named by the *Mercury*, the ratio of increase, long since has subsided, so that the rate per cent. increase for the last twenty years has been far greater in these States than in South Carolina.

The following table we have prepared to show the ratio of increase of the free and slave population, in South Carolina, during each decennial period from 1790 to 1850:

Decade	Free	Slave
1790 to 1800	40.4	36.4
1800 to 1810	9.7	34.3
1810 to 1820	10.3	31.6
1820 to 1830	10.1	29.2
1830 to 1840	0.3	3.6
1840 to 1850	6.1	17.6
1790 to 1850	100	260

From this it appears that there has been a rapid decline in the ratio of increase of the free population since 1800—its having fallen from 40 to 10 per cent. in the three periods succeeding 1800 to less than 1 per cent. in the following period, from which it rose to 6 per cent. from 1840 to 1850—not more than a seventh of what it was from 1790 to 1800. The table demonstrates that, under the present system of labor, South Carolina can expect but a very insignificant increase of free population hereafter.

It appears further that the ratio of slave increase has fallen gradually from 36.4 per cent. in the period closing with 1800, to 17.6, and one-half as much, in the period closing with 1850; that, less during the first decennial period than the ratio of free increase, it has been, during the succeeding decades, with one exception, about two hundred per cent. greater.

If the *Charleston Mercury* can prove that these figures lie, we will publish its argument. They

speak the truth, and such truth as no slaveholder can shut his eyes upon without extreme folly.

The *Mercury* boasts that the four New England States show a rate per cent. increase since 1790 of a little less than 122, while that of South Carolina for the same period is 168. Aye—but, our table shows that the increase of the free people of South Carolina has been only 100 per cent., while that of the slaves has been 260 per cent. We think Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, will be satisfied with the 122 per cent. increase of their free population, without the burden of slaves.

One point more, and we dismiss the subject. From 1840 to 1850 the free people in South Carolina increased at the rate of 6.1 per cent.; the slaves, at the rate of 17.6—both classes together at the rate of 12.4. But, there is no such falling off in the ratio of increase in the four New England States; for, while this was only 12 per cent. from 1790 to 1850, it is 27.1 per cent. from 1840 to 1850. On the other hand, the ratio of increase in South Carolina, which was 38 per cent. for the former period, is but 12.4 per cent. for the latter. The ratio of increase for the last ten years in the former States is more than 100 per cent. higher than it was in the decade ending in 1800, while the ratio of increase in the latter State is now more than 200 per cent. less than it was in that decade. This astounding fact is worth a whole volume of declamation in favor of free labor and free institutions.

THE COLORED POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

The third and last letter of Dr. Drake, from the grounds assumed in the preceding letters, reaches the conclusion that the safety of the Republic requires the separation of the white and black races, and the transportation of the blacks to Africa; that African Colonization is therefore the true and only remedy for the evil to which the country is subjected from the presence of the colored population; and, although he would prefer that it should be voluntary, he still insists upon it, voluntary or not. For, if the free States are to prohibit the immigration of negroes, and the slave States to prohibit slave importation, unless on the pledge that the emigrants shall not be sent to the free States, it is clear that the Colonization which the Doctor contemplates is to be compulsory. The slave is to have his choice—Slavery in the United States, or Freedom in Liberia.

The subject of the condition, relations, and destiny of the colored population is of national interest and importance. It now numbers nearly three and a half million souls, three millions being held in slavery. True, the great mass of the population lie within the slave States, but there is a considerable amount of it at the North, slowly increasing by accretions from the South. It is not denied that each State has a right for itself to regulate the relations of this class of people within its own limits, but every other State may be sensibly affected by the exercise of this right.

The slaves constitute the basis of nearly one-fourth of the representative power of the South in Congress. Property in slaves gives birth to a peculiar sectional interest, which, being exercised in a Republic founded upon the doctrine of Equal Rights, and dreading the national working of the formal institutions, is forever seeking to subvert them to its control, by establishing its ascendancy in the National Government.

Slavery is a state of war—at any moment the Federal Government may be called upon to suppress an insurrection of slaves. It is the source of prejudices, laws, and regulations, adverse to the interest and commerce of the free States. The prejudice of the South prevents a recognition of the Government of Hayti, thereby subjecting to great disadvantage our commerce with that island, chiefly carried on by the North. The climate of the South makes it expedient to employ colored sailors on board of Northern vessels trading in its ports; but the police regulations of the latter, subjecting their employers to harassment and loss. Citizens of one State without distinction are entitled under the Federal Constitution to the rights and immunities of citizens in the several States; but the law of slavery abrogates this guaranty in the case of colored citizens. Slaves are constantly escaping from bondage to the free States, the sentiments and usage of which shocked by the summary and barbarous mode prescribed for their recapture. Slaves liberated in the South are compelled to seek an asylum in the North from reinstatement, the penalty of remaining in the State where they were emancipated; and the North, had it the will, cannot relieve itself from the unwelcome burden of Missionaries in behalf of Colonization visit the North, appealing to its charity to aid in conveying manumitted slaves or free people of color to Africa, who are represented as a source of evil to the whole country. Finally, the colored bond or free, being to one race, are the subject of common prejudice, maintain similar relations, have a common destiny, and whatever seriously affects one portion affects all.

We repeat, then, that while each State has the right to regulate the relations of its own colored people, the condition, relations, and destiny of the whole race in this country, is a subject of national interest and importance. Ohio cannot view with indifference the laws that Kentucky may enact respecting the disposition of her colored people, nor can the South regard otherwise than with deep concern the regulations of the North on this subject. The attempt to suppress the agitation of a question, so vital and universal in its interest, so intimately connected with the welfare and destiny of this whole country, is sheer madness. In philosophy, in religion, in politics, it must continue to be a subject of the deepest anxiety, the most thorough examination, the freest discussion, throughout the States.

Perpetual Slavery, Colonization, Emancipation upon Soil, are the three modes of disposing of the masses of colored People, proposed by the political economists and philanthropists.

What will be the condition of the slaveholding States at the end of the present century, should they maintain the system of slavery? In the year 1800, the free population in those States, counting New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, as non-slaveholding, was 1,772,000; the slaves, 860,000. In 1850, the white population of the slave States is 6,410,000; the slaves, 3,075,000. We use round numbers. The increase of the free population during half a century has been at the rate of 260 per cent.; of the slaves, 243 per cent. Should the same ratio prevail for the next 50 years, the free population will amount to 22,075,000; the slaves to 10,513,000. This calculation assumes that all the States now holding slaves, will continue slaveholding till the year 1900; but this is not to be supposed. Already the free population is gaining rapidly on the slaves in Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri; while the reverse operation is going on in South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas. The following table shows the tendency of things strikingly enough in Virginia:

Year	Free	Slave
1800	594,000	791,000
1810	475,972	448,988
1820	63,757	49,941
1830	412,803	59,178
1840	517,573	61,937
1850	579,719	59,178

Being an actual decrease of 541 in the ten years! On the other hand, in South Carolina and Mississippi, the slaves have far outstripped the free. In the former in 1840 the free population was 260,305; in 1850, 283,737, showing an increase of 17,232; while in 1840 the slaves numbered 327,934. In 1850, 384,730, showing an increase of 56,796. The ratio of increase for the

free is but 6.1 per cent., that for the slaves 17.6 per cent. In Mississippi the slaves number 20,000 more than the free. In Arkansas, the ratio of slave increase for the last ten years has been 125 per cent; of free, 83 per cent.

In view of these facts, it is not to be supposed that Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri, will be slaveholding States much longer than twenty-five years to come; and it is probable that States which now contain one-half the slave population will be free before the year 1900. The whole of the slave population at that time, unless slavery be sooner abolished, will be concentrated to the amount of ten or eleven millions within States which now contain a free population of only three millions; the increase of which is destined to proceed in a diminished ratio, while the ratio of the slave increase cannot be expected to fall off in any considerable degree. Indeed, we may fairly presume from the facts above stated, and from the tendency of slave-labor to drive out the free laborer, that by the close of the present century, if slavery continue, a slave population of ten millions will be collected within a section of country containing a numerically inferior free population.

Within the last century, slaves have steadily improved in intelligence. Have the causes of this improvement exhausted themselves, or are they not working with increased power and through additional channels?

The next fifty years will witness changes in their character which, considered in connection with their great numerical force, must awaken our gloomiest apprehensions, should the hand of power continue heavy upon them. But, should the South pass safely through the increasing perils of the next fifty years, can it then dream of the possibility of ten millions of men, who have had the benefit of white instruction and free example so many generations, submitting much longer to the domination of a less physical force than their own?

And what will be the condition of the slaveholding section in other respects? Recollected, Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, will be embraced within it. Cursed with a redundant slave-population, it will be exhausted by the slave trade, its staple rivalled in the markets of the world by a production now coming into notice, and which can be grown everywhere by free labor, with diminished returns from its crops, to be preyed upon by an increasing surplus of laborers, who must eat or be decimated, with no more slave territory to bring temporary reprieve, the slaveholders would be compelled to emancipate their slaves, or expatriate themselves. Let the alarmist paint the gloomiest pictures of the consequences of Emancipation his fancy can draw, a deeper gloom hangs about the tremendous realities of the American Colonization Society, who have had the benefit of white instruction and free example so many generations, submitting much longer to the domination of a less physical force than their own?

But the Law of Human Progress, illustrated and demonstrated by the history of all nations, ancient and modern, a law founded upon the fundamental principles of Man's Nature and God's Government, makes Perpetual Slavery an impossibility.

What is there in African Colonization to prevent these impending evils? We can see nothing. If it can do any good by promoting the colonization and civilization of Africa, let it work for that end. No man will rejoice more than we at its success. If it can demonstrate the capacity of the colored man for a high civilization, it shall have our thanks; the demonstration will tell against his enslavement in this country. Had it confined itself to these objects, and contented itself simply with aiding such enterprising people of color as wished to better their fortunes, it would have excited no opposition in any quarter. But when it asserted that the two races could not dwell in one country, except in the relation of master and slave to each other, when it insisted peremptorily on the policy of separating them, and in its capacity to accomplish this result, when it urged the utter hopelessness and unprofitableness of the free colored people in this country, when it contumaciously and arrogantly defied legislation against them, with a view to make their condition here so desperate that exile would be preferable to it, when it undertook to apologize for Slavery on the ground of necessity, assumed to be the only true remedy for its evils, and opposed Colonization upon the soil, it is against its own interest, and the best friends of Freedom. They saw that it was a stumbling-block in the way of the colored man's improvement, was calculated to mislead the philanthropy of the country, and waste its energies upon an impracticable scheme.

Take the following statement of what African Colonization has done since its origin, copied from a journal which sustains its policy.

"THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.—The total receipts of the American Colonization Society, from the organization in 1817 to December 31, 1850, were \$913,636.33. The amount expended by State societies, during their independent action, was about \$1,200,000, making a total of \$1,293,636.33, which represents the cost of colonization since the organization of the society.

During the existence of the society it has sent 6,116 emigrants to Africa, as follows:

State	Emigrants
Massachusetts	1
Rhode Island	32
Connecticut	10
New York	10
New Jersey	10
Pennsylvania	101
Delaware	41
Maryland	41
District Columbia	101
Virginia	2,238
North Carolina	846
South Carolina	344
Total	6,116

Of these were—
Borneo, 2,315
Purchased their freedom, 165
Emancipated to emigrate to Liberia, 3,630
Liberated Africans sent by United States, 1,044

Total sent to Liberia, 7,160
This does not include the number, about eight hundred, sent by the Maryland Colonization Society to its colony in Liberia.—N. Y. Comm. Adm.

The entire cost of colonization since the organization of the society has been \$1,293,636.33, or a year—\$17,721 for each emigrant, including those sent by the Maryland Colonization Society.

The first expedition of emigrants left the United States in February, 1820. The whole number conveyed in thirty years is 6,916, an average of 230 a year, which is about the increase of the slave population for a day and a half. Or, the whole number transported to Liberia in thirty years, is not more than one-eighth of the increase of the colored population for one year; the cost of the colored population liberated for the purpose of being sent to Liberia, in all this period, is but 3,630—about one-seventeenth portion of the slave increase for one year!

We know how easy it is on paper, to demonstrate the practicability of conveying to Africa the whole three millions and a half of colored people. But we have before us the workings of African Colonization for a generation, and what has it done? A great deal, we grant, in founding a self-sustaining colony in Africa, and in all towards the separation of the two races, or the reduction of the number of slaves; and every man of intelligence sees that it promises nothing in these respects. As a proposed remedy for slavery, it has lost in the public judgment. The majority of its warmest friends are backward in urging its claims upon this ground. Nor has it accomplished any substantial good for the free people of color in this country. On the contrary, those who have resisted the repeal of prospective legislation against them, or urged the imposition of new disabilities, have availed themselves of its assistance, and enrolled themselves among its prominent supporters. Could there be a more striking illustration of the truth of this remark, than Dr. Drake, who, though personally very kind and benevolent, has been led on by his devotion to the theory of Colonization, to advocate the exclusion of colored people from the free States, and their retention in bondage unless on condition of their emigration to Africa—a policy so

utterly heartless that even the politicians of his own State, who are supposed to be more amenable to party influences than the higher considerations of justice and humanity, united recently, without distinction, in placing the brand of condemnation upon it, by repealing the black code designed to carry it out, so far as Ohio was concerned.

Perpetual Slavery is an impossibility: African Colonization, so far as it proposes the extinction of slavery by the separation of the races and the exportation of the blacks to Africa, is impracticable; and the sooner the American People reach these two conclusions, and rest in them, the better for themselves and the subject race. They will then look the Evil in the face, and be prepared to act in accordance with Justice, Humanity, and the dictates of a wise, manly, and liberal statesmanship.

The subject will be resumed in our next.

TENDENCY TO EMANCIPATION IN VIRGINIA.

A South Carolina paper, speculating upon the relative decrease of the slave population in Virginia and Maryland, apprehends the occurrence of emancipation at no distant day. Maryland, it says, has sent not less than 30,000 slaves to the North in the last ten years, and nearly half of these since the repeal of the law in Georgia and other States prohibiting the introduction of negroes by traders. "Is it not time," it asks, "for the planters and slaveholders of the more Southern States to reflect upon the result? Their destiny, and that of slavery itself, will be inevitable, unless something is done to check the progress of things in Virginia and Maryland. At present we are actually paying the people of those States to become our enemies. In a quarter of a century they will become free States, with a population consisting of one-third free negroes. So securely then will there be for slave property in North Carolina, South Carolina, or even Georgia? We say not a word about the character of slaves brought into the State under the existing law, or the ultimate effect which their introduction will have upon the morals of our present slave population; or in increasing the quantity and reducing the price of cotton. These are questions which every man must settle for himself. We regard it simply as a question of great public and State policy—as one which is likely to effect a complete and disastrous revolution in the business and prosperity of the Southern people."

This slow but certain determination of the slave population to the South may be checked, though not entirely arrested, by legislative prohibition on the part of the slave-importing States. The time is approaching when they must change their policy or experience the consequences indicated in the foregoing extract. But, should they forbid the importation of slaves, what would be the effect of the same policy, and unless her legislators exercise proper discretion and foresight, the evil will progress until she, in turn, will become a border State, and her slaves are rendered worthless.

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It is vain to expect that much progress can be made in the South, against the Slave Power, unless by an organization of the friends of freedom. The upholders of Slavery concentrate within themselves the political power of the State—they are united, organized, with the press and the machinery of party under their control. Col. Clay is setting an example that will find followers. The demonstration may be apparently insignificant, now, but it will be repeated again, and again, until it shall begin to command the attention of the indifferent, and the confidence of the timid and wavering. We see not why the question of emancipation in Kentucky may not be agitated now under more favorable auspices than it was a year ago. Then, the great Territorial Question was pending, involving sectional prejudices, rivalries, and interests, which threw upon the side of the slaveholders the weight of sectional pride and attachments; and they well knew how to avail themselves of the advantage this gave them in Kentucky. That State was arrayed with the rest of the South against Free-Soilism, and in the deep excitement of the contest, the interests of emancipation suffered. It was not to be tolerated that at such an hour, when the South, it was represented, was struggling for equality of rights against the North, Kentucky should ungenerously abandon her sister States, and by abolishing slavery, decide the victory in favor of the latter.

The strife is now nearly over—the Territorial question is settled. South Carolina threatens secession, but on the question of the Union, Kentucky stands with the North. Her slaveholders and non-slaveholders all go for the Union. The question of emancipation, it seems to us, can be discussed now, upon its merits, independently of any extraneous excitement.

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WANTED,

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STOCKS:
Commission Merchants,
Dec. 28-17
N.Y., N.J.